



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 JANUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

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2. North Vietnam

The US consul in Hong Kong believes Peking will have trouble dealing with Ho Chi Minh's letter of 24 January.

While the letter is unyielding on the US 14 points and on Hanoi's four points, it does address itself directly to the question of a peaceful settlement of the war. This hardly fits in with Peking's uncompromising line that the war must be carried on to a victorious end.

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3. South Vietnam

Widely dispersed Viet Cong activity by small units continues, but no large-scale attacks have been reported since the Tet cease-fire.

US military authorities in South Vietnam point out that during the past month, the Viet Cong has stepped up actions designed to cut surface communications with provincial capitals and district headquarters. Only one province capital is completely isolated, but more than half the others can be reached only with the help of armed security forces.

4. Indonesia

There are some signs that Sukarno's "political solution" may be imminent.

Sukarno plans to challenge directly the various anti-Communist groups. If so, a crisis could develop quickly.

Such direct confrontations seldom occur in Indonesia, and this may be another false alarm. Security forces evidently are being strengthened in Djakarta this weekend, however, and a large rally of anti-Communist Muslims is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

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5. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy yesterday told Defense Minister Rivera Caminero that he wanted to change the top military commands by 1 February. Rivera indicated that he doubted his fellow officers would allow him to agree to this, although he himself was willing. Rivera asked that Garcia Godoy and Ambassador Bunker personally explain the situation to the officers.

A meeting between Bunker, Garcia Godoy, and representatives of the officers is scheduled for today. As of noon, we have no further report on it.

There is an outside chance that the military chiefs may try to capitalize on rumors that a leftist "invasion force" landed on the Dominican coast yesterday, although nothing of the kind occurred.

6. France

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7. Nigeria

Reports from our embassy and consulates indicate that the country is continuing to settle back down. The military leaders, national and regional, are keeping policy decisions closely in their own hands, but have turned to experienced top civil servants to revive local government and restore law and order.

There are still questions, however, as to how long Nigeria's normally active politicians will be willing to stay under wraps, and whether action-minded junior officers can be kept under control.

8. Turkey

President Gursel became seriously ill yesterday.

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Gursel is 70 and has been ill for most of his term. He has not exerted much influence on the conduct of government. If it becomes necessary to choose a successor, a new tug-of-war could possibly develop between the civilian leaders of the ruling Justice Party and elements of the Turkish military. The chances are, however, that an accommodation would be worked out.

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